

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL GENOA
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INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
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E.O.1652: N/A
TAGS: PINT IT
SUBJECT: SOCIALISTS WOULD INVITE COMMUNIST DISSIDENTS TO GENOA

REF: GENOA 0465

1. ON AUG 2, A SOCIALIST MOTION OF CONDEMNATION OF SOVIET REPRESSION AND PERSECUTION OF DISSIDENTS WAS TABLED WITH GENOA'S LEFTIST (COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST) CITY ADMINISTRATION (GIUNTA) HEADED BY SOCIALIST MAYOR FULVIO CEROFOLINO. IN ADDITION TO THE CONDEMNATION, THE MOTION WHICH HAD THE BACKING OF THE SOCIALIST PROVINCIAL FEDERATION, REQUESTED THAT THE CITY GIUNTA, PERHAPS JOINED ALSO BY THE REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS, INVITE LEADING SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN DISSIDENTS TO GENOA FOR A MULTI-DAY "MANIFESTATION" AGAINST OPPRESSION. THE INVITEES WOULD INCLUDE, INTER ALIA, SUCH NOTED DISSIDENTS AS OSTACEK, YURII PELIKAN, ANDREI SCHAROFF, YURII ORLOV, ALEXANDER GINSBURG, ANATOLII SCHARANSKY, AND LAST, BUT NOT THE LEAST, FORMER CZECH PREMIER ALEXANDER DUBCEK.

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2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, MAYOR CEROFOLINO THOUGHT HIS PARTY'S MOTION "INOPPORTUNE". HE REPORTEDLY FELT THAT HIS PARTY'S ACTION WOULD FURTHER MUDDLE THE TROUBLED WATERS WITH HIS COMMUNIST PARTNERS. NEVERTHELESS, HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE MOTION. NO WORD YET AS TO WHEN OR WHETHER THE MAYOR AND HIS GIUNTA

WILL PLACE THE MOTION ON THE AGEND FOR EVENTUAL DEBATE AND ACTION. MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE PROBLEM WILL BE POST-PONED AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF SUMMER HOLIDAYS IN LATE SEPTEMBER

3. THE UNEXPECTED SOCIALIST INITIATIVE SEEMS TO BE PART AND PARCEL OF THE PARTY'S EFFORT TO STRESS THE NEW "AUTONOMIST" STRATEGY OF THE CRAXI'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIPAS HAS EMERGED OVER THE PAST YEAR OR SO, SOCIALIST STRATEGY IN LIGURIA APPEARS TO BE ON A DOUBLE TRACK COURSE:

A. IN THOSE CITIES AND TOWNS WHERETHEY ARE ALLIED WITH THE COMMUNISTS, I.E. IN THREE OF THE FOUR LIGURIAN PROVINCES, THE SOCIALISTS INSIST ON EXCLUDING THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND ON ATTACKING THE COMMUNISTS FOR DELIBERATE "IMMOBILISM" AND FOOT DRAGGING, DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE "COMPROMESSO STORICO" WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS;

B. WHERE, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SOCIALIST RULE WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, THEY INSIST IN COOPTING THE COMMUNISTS INTO BROADENED "PROGRAMMATIC" MAJORITIES, AS THEY HAVE DONE IN SAN REMO. THE STRATEGY IS DESIGNED TO CAPTURE THOSE COMMUNIST AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC VOTERS WHO ARE OPPOSED TO COLLABORATION BETWEEN THEIR TWO PARTIES. THE FUTURE OF BOTH THE LIGURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY AND THE LOCAL CRAXI LEADERSHIP HANGS IN THE SOUNDNESS OF THAT CALCULATION.

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COMMENT: WHEN I ASKED A LEADING SOCIALIST WHAT HE THOUGHT OF HIS PARTY'S INITIATIVE ON DISSIDENTS, HE REPORTED THAT IT WAS THE USUAL SOCIALIST "PAGLIACCIATA" (THE CLOSEST AND MOST MERCIFUL ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF WHICH IS "CLOWNING"). PAGLIACCIATA OR NOT, THE SOCIALIST MOVE, COMING AS IT DOES IN THE MIDST OF THE ALMOST DAILY DIATRIBE AGAINST THE COMMUNIST PARTNERS (REFTE), CAN ONLY EXACERBATE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES IT IS OF COURSE, AN OPEN QUESTION WHETHER SOCIALIST GRANDSTANDING WITH THE COMMUNISTS WILL BE REWARDED WITH AN ELECTORAL WINDFALL. MY GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT PUBLIC OPINION HEREABOUTS IS BECOMING BORED TO TEARS WITH THE CONSTANT BUT INCONCLUSIVE SOCIALIST POLEMICS AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS. FOR IT HAS BECOME CLEAR TO EVERYONE THAT THE SOCIALISTS HAVE NO INTENTION OF PUSHING THEIR WAR OF NERVES WITH THE COMMUNISTS TO THE POINT OF RUPTURING THEIR PARTNERSHIP. UNTIL THEY DO, THEIR CREDIBILITY IS NOT LIKELY TO BE IMPROVED BY GIMMICKRY.DISCIUULLO

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